

24. (New) The dextrose hydrate according to claim 23, having a water content in the range 5% to 9.5%.

25. (New) The dextrose hydrate according to claim 22, having a compressibility of at least 90 N.

26. (New) The dextrose hydrate according to claim 25, having a compressibility in the range 90 N to 200 N.

27. (New) The dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22, having a compressibility determined according to a test A in the range 150 N to 200 N and according to a test B at least equal to 170 N.

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28. (New) The dextrose hydrate according to claim 27, having a compressibility determined according to a test B in the range 175 N to 300 N.

29. (New) The dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22, having:

- an apparent density, determined according to HOSOKAWA, of less than 0.7 g/ml,
- a mean diameter in the range 50 μm to 1000 μm ,
- a flow grade at least equal to 60.

30. (New) The dextrose hydrate according to claim 29, having an apparent density in the range 0.45 g/ml to 0.65 g/ml.

31. (New) The dextrose hydrate according to claim 30, having an apparent density in the range 0.5 g/ml to 0.6 g/ml.

32. (New) The dextrose hydrate according to claim 29, having a mean diameter in the range 100 μm to 500 μm .

33. (New) The dextrose hydrate according to claim 29, having a flow grade in the range 60 to 90.

34. (New) The dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22, having:

- a dextrose content at least equal to 98%,
- an α crystalline form content at least equal to 95%,
- a compressibility, determined according to a test A, in the range 180 N to 200 N, and according to a test B greater than 220 N.

35. (New) The dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 34, having a compressibility determined according to a test B, greater than 230 N.

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36. (New) A sweetener, osmotic agent, nutrient or excipient in compositions intended in particular for the food, pharmaceutical, chemical or agrochemical sectors, comprising a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22.

37. (New) A process for the preparation of a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22, wherein it comprises a succession of steps consisting in a step involving the rehumidification/granulation, using a suitable binder, of a crystalline dextrose of substantially α form obtained directly by crystallisation or by partial or complete drying of a crystalline dextrose monohydrate, then a step involving the ageing/drying of the rehumidified granulated dextrose thus obtained.

38. (New) The process for the preparation of a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 37, wherein it comprises a step involving the granulation of an α crystalline dextrose having a water content greater than 1%.

39. (New) The process for the preparation of a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 38, wherein the α crystalline dextrose has a water content in the range of 2% to 10%.

40. (New) The process for the preparation of a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 37, wherein it comprises a step involving the granulation of an α crystalline dextrose having a water content at most equal to 1%.

41. (New) The process for preparation according to claim 37, wherein the granulation step is carried out in a continuous mixer-granulator.

42. (New) A sweetener, osmotic agent, nutrient or excipient in compositions intended in particular for the food, pharmaceutical, chemical or agrochemical sectors, comprising a dextrose hydrate in powder form prepared according to claim 37.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 to 21 have been withdrawn from examination without prejudice and have been replaced with new claims 22-42. Claims 22 to 42 are pending.

The article "A" at the beginning of the dependent claims is replaced by "The".